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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/833,034	04/10/2001	Sudesh Kamath	ORCL5665CIP (OID-2000-128)	8354
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22430 7590 06/18/2003

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EXAMINER

VIG, NARESH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/833,034

Applicant(s)

KAMATH ET AL.

Examiner

Naresh Vig

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 - 7, 9 - 24, 26 - 30, 32 - 47, 49 - 53 and 55 - 69 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 - 7, 9 - 24, 26 - 30, 32 - 47, 49 - 53 and 55 - 69 is/are rejected.

- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is in reference to the response received by the office on 13 February 2003 to the office action mailed on 16 October 2002. Amendment to claim 3 is acknowledged. There are 63 claims 1, 3 – 7, 9 – 24, 26 – 30, 32 – 47, 49 – 53 and 55 – 69 pending for examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 13 February 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the cited references do not teach bifurcated order processing route. Amazon.com customers have a choice to either purchase using 1-click or shopping cart method. Fig. 1A discloses that customers can add items to shopping cart for 1-click ordering. Also, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art the Amazon.com customers can make purchases using regular checkout or 1-click checkout. In addition, giving a choice to a customer to select a route of action to be taken is a design choice which have been in use for designing systems at the time invention to determine how does the customer want the vendor to handle the transaction. For example, customers are given choice to select the shipping method etc.

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In response to applicant's argument the reference cited do not teach customer to select and order processing route. It is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art that Amazon.com customers had a choice to make purchase using regular checkout or 1-click checkout. Also, Amazon.com provided means and method to its customers to alter 1-click settings [page 3]. In addition, giving a choice to a customer to select a route of action to be taken is a design choice which have been in use for designing systems at the time invention to determine how does the customer want the vendor to handle the transaction. For example, customers are given choice to select the shipping method etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4 – 7, 9 – 24, 27 – 30, 32 – 47, 50 – 53 and 55 – 69 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Hartman et al. US Patent 5,960,411 in view of Amazon.com, Inc. "www.amazon.com" hereinafter known as Amazon.

Regarding claims 1, 24 and 47, Hartman et al. disclose method and system for placing an order to purchase an item via the Internet. The order is placed by a purchaser at a client system and received by a server system. The server system receives purchaser information including identification of the purchaser, payment information, and shipment information from the client system. In response to the selection of the order button, the client system sends to the server system a request to purchase the identified item. The server system receives the request and combines the purchaser information associated with the client identifier of the client system to generate an order to purchase the item in accordance with the billing and shipment information whereby the purchaser effects the ordering of the product by selection of the order button (abstract). The server system can also generate a standard shopping cart-type Web page for the item. Also, Hartman et al. discloses that a server system may comprise any combination of hardware or software that can generate orders in response to the single action being performed. A client system may comprise any combination of hardware or software that can interact with the server system. These systems may include television-based systems or various other consumer products through which orders may be placed (col. 6, lines 31 – 38).

Hartman et al. discloses that the selection of the various items from the electronic catalogs is generally based on the "shopping cart" model. When the purchaser selects an item from the electronic catalog, the server computer system metaphorically adds that item to a shopping cart. When the purchaser is done selecting items, then all the items in the shopping cart are "checked out" (i.e., ordered) when the purchaser provides

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billing and shipment information (second order processing route, see col. 2, lines 17 – 24).

Hartman et al. does not disclose requesting customers to select an order processing route. However, Hartman et al. discloses that in some models, when a purchaser selects any one item, then that item is "checked out" by automatically prompting the user for the billing and shipment information (col. 2, lines 24 – 27). Amazon discloses system and method which allows customers to make purchases over the internet. Amazon discloses after the customer has added an item in the shopping cart, customer is given a choice to continue shopping or checkout. Therefore, it is obvious that Amazon requests customers to make a selection (selecting order processing route, see page 17 of Information on Amazon.com, Inc.). In addition Express Checkout method has been available at the time of invention (TBTF Log on page 3 discloses BarnesAndNoble.Com to accelerate deployment of "Express Checkout", Catalog age in their article "TECHNOLOGY: Getting personal online discloses on page 1 that FogDog having "Express Checkout" environment). Therefore, it is known at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to request a customer to select an order processing route to make the system more efficient. (For example, system does not have to create and order for each item).

Regarding claims 4 – 5, 27 – 28 and 50 - 51, Hartman et al. discloses that a computer system may provide an electronic version of a catalog that lists the items that

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are available. A user, who is a potential purchaser, may browse through the catalog using a browser and select various items that are to be purchased.

Regarding claims 6, 29 and 52, Hartman et al. discloses that to help minimize shipping costs and purchaser confusion, the server system may combine various single-action orders into a multiple-item order. For example, if a purchaser orders one item using the single-action ordering and five minutes later orders another item using the single-action ordering, then those orders may be cost effectively combined into a single order for shipping. The server system combines the single-action orders when their expected ship dates are similar. For example, if one item is immediately available and the other item will be available in one day, then the two single-action orders may be cost-effectively combined. However, if the other item will not be available for two weeks, then the two single-item orders would not be combined. Also, the server system may combine or divide orders when the orders are scheduled for shipment based on the then current availability of the items ordered.

Regarding claims 7, 30 and 53, Hartman et al. does not disclose using different identifiers for a product. However, It is notoriously known that in businesses identify their products using multiple unique identifiers to meet customer requirements. For

example, a telecommunication customer can use vendor provided product number or a CLEI code when ordering a product from a vendor.

Regarding claims 9, 32 and 55, Hartman et al. does not disclose to leave the order in pending state until the consolidation interval has elapsed. However, Hartman et al. discloses that a purchaser can cancel the order within a time period of placing the order (for example 90 minutes as used in Fig 1A). Also, Hartman et al. gives the user the opportunity to view and modify the single-action orders. Amazon discloses providing choice of shipping method to customers.

1. "Group my items into as few shipments as possible"
2. "I want my items faster. Ship them as soon as they become available"

If a customer choose the first option, Amazon will consolidate items into the fewest shipments possible. If customer choose the second option, Amazon will ship items to customer as they become available, beginning with those already in stock. In addition, Amazon discloses orders for items sold by Amazon.com that are placed via 1-Click within the same 90-minute period (consolidation interval) are consolidated first by shipping address and then by availability. Therefore, it is known at the time of applicants invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to make new orders as firm order at fixed intervals (for example every hour or every 4 hours etc.) to allow customer to make any modifications within the timeframe before forwarding the order to the fulfillment

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center, and also to save shipping cost for customers by consolidating customer orders in one shipment.

Regarding claims 10, 33 and 56, Hartman et al. discloses that after the purchaser selects the single-action ordering button, the client system sends a message to the server system requesting that the displayed item be ordered. The server system processes the message and provides to the client system a new Web page that confirms receipt of the single-action order. The confirming Web page contains essentially the same information as the Web page describing the item.

Regarding claims 11, 17, 34, 40, 57 and 63, Hartman et al. discloses that a purchaser can cancel the order within a time period of placing an order (for example within 90 minutes as used in Fig 1A). Hartman does not disclose the order to be pending and converting plurality of orders to be sent for fulfillment. However, Amazon discloses to provide choice of shipping method to customers.

1. "Group my items into as few shipments as possible"
2. "I want my items faster. Ship them as soon as they become available"

If a customer choose the first option, Amazon will consolidate items into the fewest shipments possible. If customer choose the second option, Amazon will ship items to customer as they become available, beginning with those already in stock. In

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addition, Amazon discloses orders for items sold by Amazon.com that are placed via 1-Click within the same 90-minute period (consolidation interval) are consolidated first by shipping address and then by availability. Therefore, it is known at the time of applicants invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to keep orders in pending state for fixed intervals (for example every hour or every 4 hours etc.) to allow customer to make any modifications within the timeframe before forwarding the order to the fulfillment center, and also to save shipping cost for customers by consolidating customer orders in one shipment.

Regarding claims 12 – 13, 35 – 36 and 58 – 59, Hartman et al. gives the user opportunity to view and modify the short-term and long-term single-action orders. Hartman et al. does not distinguish type of users. It is obvious at the time of invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art that the users can be customers, sales representative, order entry personnel etc. For example an order entry personnel or a sales representative can place a telephone order on behalf of a customer who does not have online access to the system.

Regarding claims 14 – 16, 37 – 39 and 60 – 62, Hartman et al. discloses that a purchaser can cancel the order within a time period of placing an order (for example within 90 minutes as used in Fig 1A). It is obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the

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art that that Hartman et al. has method and means to time all the orders confirmed by the customer.

Regarding claims 18 – 20, 41 – 43 and 64 – 66, Hartman et al. discloses that the selection of the various items from the electronic catalogs is generally based on the "shopping cart" model. When the purchaser selects an item from the electronic catalog, the server compute system metaphorically adds that item to a shopping cart (create a list of items by adding additional selected items to the list, and the price quoted for the order is dependant on the items in the list). When the purchaser is done selecting items, then all the items in the shopping cart are "checked out" (i.e., ordered) when the purchaser provides billing and shipment information.

Hartman et al. discloses that in some models, when a purchaser selects any one item, then that item is "checked out" by automatically prompting the user for the billing and shipment information, and, to minimize shipping costs and purchaser confusion, the server system may combine various single-action orders into a multiple-item order. For example, if a purchaser orders one item using the single-action ordering and five minutes later orders another item using the single-action ordering, then those orders may be cost effectively combined into a single order for shipping. The server system combines the single-action orders when their expected ship dates are similar.

Hartman et al. does not disclose starting new shopping cart after predetermined interval. Amazon discloses that orders for items sold by Amazon.com that are placed

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via 1-Click within the same 90-minute period (consolidation interval) are consolidated first by shipping address and then by availability. Also, customers can cancel modify or cancel the order within 90 minutes of placing the 1-click order. Therefore, it is known at the time of applicants invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to keep orders in pending state for fixed intervals (for example every hour or every 4 hours etc.) to allow customer to make any modifications within the timeframe before forwarding the order to the fulfillment center, and also to save shipping cost for customers by consolidating customer orders in one shipment.

Regarding claims 21, 44 and 67, Hartman et al. discloses that a purchaser can cancel the order within a time period of placing an order (for example within 90 minutes as used in Fig 1A) to give the purchaser a chance to cancel the order before it is scheduled for fulfillment.

Regarding claims 22 – 23, 45 – 46 and 68 – 69, Hartman et al. discloses that the server computer system confirms the order by sending a confirming Web page to the client computer system and schedules shipment of the items. It is notoriously known that online retailers like Amazon.com, BestBuy.com etc. send an email confirmation to the purchaser confirming the receipt of the order.

Claims 3, 26 and 49 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Hartman et al. US Patent 5,960,411 in view of Amazon.com, Inc.

"www.amazon.com" hereinafter known as Amazon in further view of Bezos et al. US Patent 6,029,141.

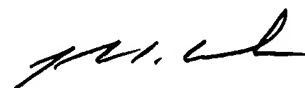
Regarding claims 3, 26 and 49, Hartman et al. does not disclose to creating a list for later retrieval to fulfill the order. Amazon discloses that a customer can select an item to order by clicking on "Add to Shopping Cart" button on the item's product information page. (If the customer want to customer can click on "Continue shopping" button to keep searching or browsing until your cart contains all of the items the customer wants to order (customer creates a list of one or more items). In addition customer can access the contents of their shopping cart (list of items) at any time by clicking the Shopping Cart icon at the top of every page of our Web site.

In addition, Amazon discloses system and method which allows customers to make purchases over the internet. Amazon discloses after the customer has added an item in the shopping cart, customer is given a choice to continue shopping or checkout. Therefore, it is obvious that Amazon requests customers to make a selection (selecting order processing route, see page 17 of Information on Amazon.com, Inc.). In addition Express Checkout method has been available at the time of invention (TBTF Log on page 3 discloses BarnesAndNoble.Com to accelerate deployment of "Express

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Checkout", Catalog age in their article "TECHNOLOGY: Getting personal online discloses on page 1 that FogDog having "Express Checkout" environment).

Amazon does not disclose the list available to the customer when the customer returns to Amazon's system. However, Bezos et al. discloses that the information stored within the shopping cart includes a list of the products that have been selected by the customer for prospective purchase, together with an identifier of the referring associate (if any) corresponding to each such product. Each shopping cart persists on the site for an extended period of time (such as one week) following the most recent access by the customer, allowing the customer to conduct extended shopping sessions. Therefore, it is known at the time of applicant's invention to a person with ordinary skill in the art to creating a list for later retrieval to display the items selected earlier by the customer as items to be included in the purchase, and also to use the data stored in the selection list to anticipate customer requirements and have efficient inventory management system.



JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

U.S. Patent

Sep. 28, 1999

Sheet 1 of 11

5,960,411

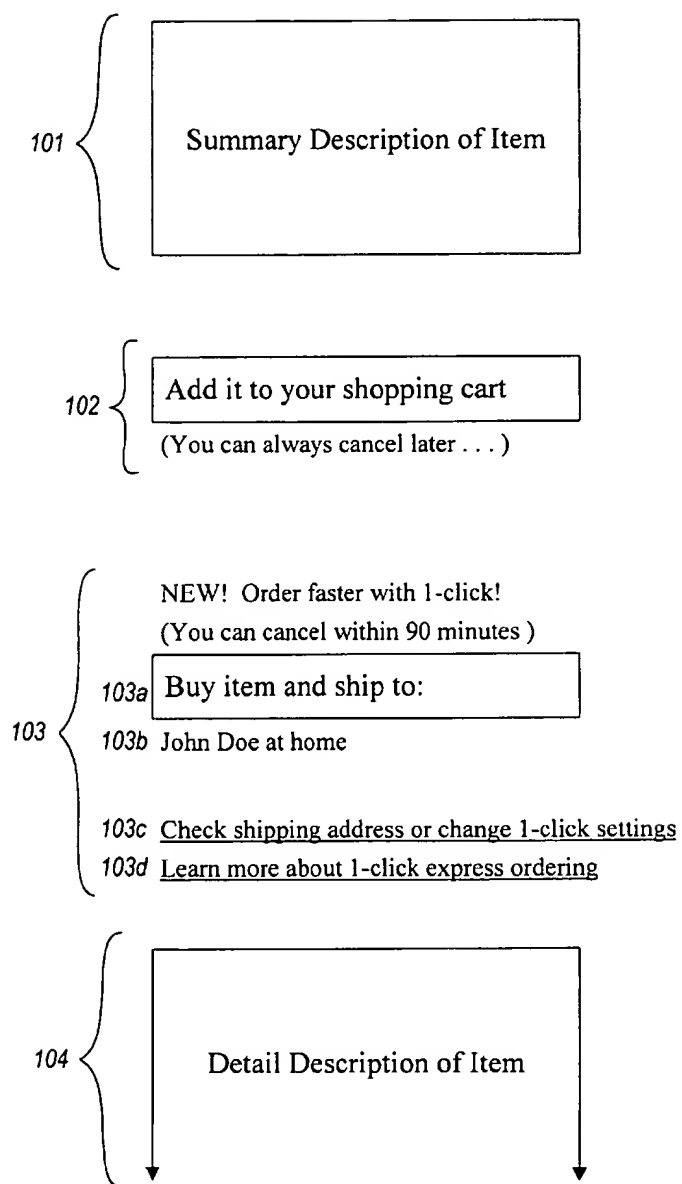


Fig. 1A

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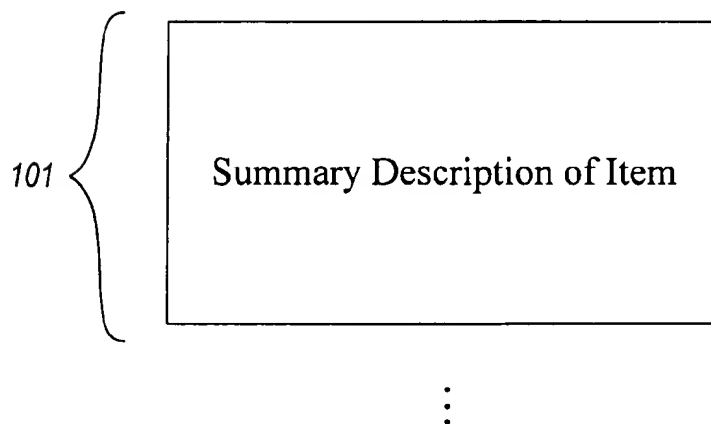
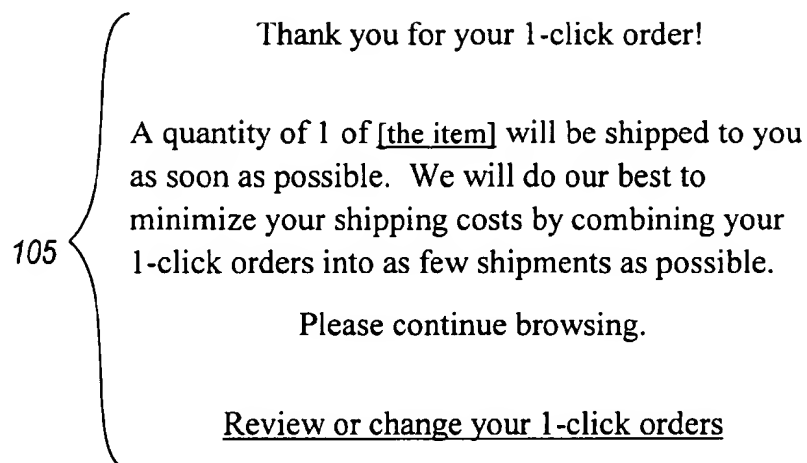


Fig. 1B

U.S. Patent

Sep. 28, 1999

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Summary of 1-Click Express Orders

Press this button if you Changed Quantities of any item below. If you don't press it, your changes won't "stick." You can set the quantity to 0 (zero) to cancel an item.

The 1-click orders below (available in 3 or fewer days) will be shipped together.

106 {	Order # 098337		
	1	Item 1	\$10.00
	1	Item 2	\$15.00
		Total	<u>\$25.00</u>

The 1-click orders below (available in one week or more) will be shipped together.

107 {	Order # 098336		
	1	Item 3	\$20.00
	1	Item 4	\$ 6.00
		Total	<u>\$26.00</u>

108 {	Ship to:	John Doe at home
	Shipment Method:	Standard Domestic Shipping
	Payment Method:	**** _ **** _ ***1_2345
	Continue Shopping	

[1-Click Express shipping policies](#)

Fig. 1C

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

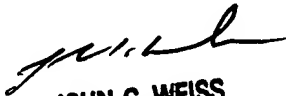
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is 703.305.3372. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 5:00 (Alt Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703.308.2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.305.7687 for regular communications and 703.305.7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.305.3900.

Naresh Vig
May 30, 2003


JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600